METHODS FOR DELAYING OR INDUCING LABOR

Abstract of the disclosure

[0052]   Disclosed herein are novel methods for preventing or delaying preterm uterine contractions in a pregnant mammal. Also disclosed are novel methods for inducing uterine contractions in a pregnant mammal. In each case, control of uterine smooth muscle contractility is achieved by specifically targeting the MAPK ERK signal transduction cascade. Inactivation of the cascade is disclosed as a novel method for delaying labor. Activation of the MAPK ERK pathway is disclosed as a novel method for inducing labor.

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